the surface area on the body tissue with the leading end portion of the member while the leading end portion of the member extends through the anchor, moving the leading end portion of the member and the anchor together into an opening formed in the body tissue during performance of said step of piercing the body tissue with the leading end portion of the member, withdrawing the leading end portion of the member from the anchor after moving the leading end portion of the member and the anchor together into the opening formed in the body tissue, and changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the leading end portion of the member as the leading end portion of the member is withdrawn from the anchor.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 73:

74. A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein said step of moving the leading end portion of the member and the anchor together into the opening formed in the body tissue includes transmitting force from the member to a trailing end of the anchor to move the anchor into the body tissue.

75. A method as set forth in claim 73 further including the steps of inserting a suture through a passage having openings in opposite ends of the anchor, and inserting the leading end portion of the member through the openings in the opposite ends of anchor with the suture in the openings in the opposite ends of anchor.

76. A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein said step of engaging the surface area on the body tissue with the

leading end portion of the member includes engaging the surface area on body tissue with a pointed end of the member, said step of piercing the surface area on the body tissue includes initiating the formation of an opening in the surface area on the body tissue with the pointed end of the member.

77. A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein said step of moving the leading end portion of the member and the anchor together into an opening formed in the body tissue includes pressing a pusher surface against an end surface on the anchor and moving the anchor into the opening under the influence of force applied against the end surface on the anchor by the pusher surface while moving the leading end portion of the member relative to the body tissue.

78. A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein said step of withdrawing the leading end portion of the member from the anchor includes applying force against a trailing end portion of the anchor.

79. A method as set forth in claim 78 wherein said step of applying force against the end of the anchor includes moving a force transmitting surface relative to the member in a direction toward a leading end of the member.

80. A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein the leading end portion of the member includes a pointed end, said method further including the steps of moving the pointed end of the member through the anchor so that the pointed end of the member projects from a first side of the anchor, said step of piercing

the surface area on the body tissue with the leading end portion of the member includes piercing the body tissue with the pointed end of the member, said step of changing the orientation of the anchor includes engaging an inner surface on the anchor with the pointed end of the member.

Claim 8, line 1, please change the numeral "7" to the numeral --73--.

Please cancel claim 20, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 81 as follows:

81. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an anchor which engages a suture and has a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, providing a member having an end portion which extends through the passage in the anchor to a position in which the end portion of the member extends a first distance from the first surface area on the anchor, moving the anchor into body tissue with the first surface area on the anchor leading, said step of moving the anchor into body tissue being performed with the end portion of the member extending the first distance ahead of the first surface area on the anchor and with the suture engaging the anchor, said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes a applying force against an inner side surface of the passage in the anchor with a spring, and, thereafter, separating the member and the anchor while the anchor remains in the body tissue in engagement with the suture by moving the

end portion of the member out of the passage in the anchor, said step of separating the member and the anchor includes flexing the spring to reduce force applied against the inner side surface of the passage in the anchor by the spring.

Please cancel claim 22, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 82 as follows:

82. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an anchor which engages a suture and has a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, providing a member having an end portion which extends through the passage in the anchor to a position in which the end portion of the member extends a first distance from the first surface area on the anchor, moving the anchor into body tissue with the first surface area on the anchor leading, said step of moving the anchor into body tissue being performed with the end portion of the member extending the first distance ahead of the first surface area on the anchor and with the suture engaging the anchor, and, thereafter, separating the member and the anchor while the anchor remains in the body tissue in engagement with the suture by moving the end portion of the member out of the passage in the anchor, said step of separating the member and the anchor includes transmitting force from a pusher surface to the second surface area on the anchor and moving the pusher surface relative to the member in a direction toward the end portion of the member, said step of moving the pusher surface relative to the member includes sliding a pusher element on

which the pusher surface is disposed along the member in a direction toward the end portion of the member.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 82:

41 ~~83~~. A method as set forth in claim ~~82~~ 40 further including the steps of applying force against the second surface area on the anchor with the pusher surface during performance of said step of moving the anchor into body tissue.

42 ~~84~~. A method as set forth in claim 82 40 wherein said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes moving the pusher surface and the end portion of the member together relative to the body tissue, transmitting force from the pusher surface to the second surface area on the anchor, and pressing the first surface area on the anchor against the body tissue under the influence of force transmitted to the second surface area on the anchor from the pusher surface.

43 ~~85~~. A method as set forth in claim ~~82~~ 40 wherein said step of separating the member and the anchor includes moving the end portion of the member and the pusher surface together away from the anchor.

44 ~~86~~. A method as set forth in claim ~~82~~ 40 wherein said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes a applying force against an inner side surface of the passage in the anchor with a spring, said step of separating the member and the anchor includes flexing the spring to reduce force applied against the inner side surface of the passage in the anchor by the spring.

87. A method as set forth in claim 87 wherein the suture extends through the passage in the anchor, said method further includes changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the member while the end portion of the member is disposed in the anchor.

Please cancel claim 23, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 88 as follows:

88. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an anchor which engages a suture and has a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, the suture extends through the passage in the anchor, providing a member having an end portion which extends through the passage in the anchor to a position in which the end portion of the member extends a first distance from the first surface area on the anchor, moving the anchor into body tissue with the first surface area on the anchor leading, said step of moving the anchor into body tissue being performed with the end portion of the member extending the first distance ahead of the first surface area on the anchor and with the suture engaging the anchor, thereafter, separating the member and the anchor while the anchor remains in the body tissue in engagement with the suture by moving the end portion of the member out of the passage in the anchor, and changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the member while the end portion of the member is disposed in the passage in the anchor along with the suture.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 88:

89. A method as set forth in claim 88 further including the steps of applying force against the second surface area on the anchor during performance of said step of moving the anchor into body tissue.

90. A method as set forth in claim 88 wherein said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes moving a pusher surface and the end portion of the member together relative to the body tissue, transmitting force from the pusher surface to the second surface area on the anchor, and pressing the first surface area on the anchor against the body tissue under the influence of force transmitted to the second surface area on the anchor from the pusher surface.

91. A method as set forth in claim 90 wherein said step of separating the member and the anchor includes moving the pusher surface relative to the member in a direction toward the end portion of the member.

92. A method as set forth in claim 90 wherein said step of separating the member and the anchor includes moving the end portion of the member and the pusher surface together away from the anchor.

93. A method as set forth in claim 88 wherein said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes a applying force against an inner side surface of the passage in the anchor with a spring, said step of separating the member and the anchor

includes flexing the spring to reduce force applied against the inner side surface of the passage in the anchor by the spring.

94. A method as set forth in claim 88 wherein said step of separating the member and the anchor includes transmitting force from a pusher surface to the second surface area on the anchor and moving the pusher surface relative to the member in a direction toward the end portion of the member.

95. A method as set forth in claim 88 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the member includes transmitting force from the suture to the anchor by tensioning the suture.

96. A method as set forth in claim 88 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the member includes applying force against an inner side surface of the passage in the anchor with the member.

Please rewrite claim 28, which was indicated as being allowable, in independent form as claim 97 as follows:

97. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an anchor which has a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, providing an inserter having an end portion and a pusher surface which is spaced from the end portion, and moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue with the end portion of the inserter extending into the passage in the anchor and the pusher surface on the inserter engaging the second surface area on the anchor, said step of

moving the anchor and inserter together into the body tissue includes transmitting force from the pusher surface on the inserter to the second surface area on the anchor, said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue is performed with a suture extending through the passage in the anchor.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 97:

98. A method as set forth in claim 97 further including the step of separating the inserter and the anchor after performing said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue, said step of separating the inserter and the anchor includes moving the end portion of the inserter out of the passage in the anchor while the suture remains in the passage in the anchor.

99. A method as set forth in claim 98 wherein said step of separating the anchor and the inserter includes moving the pusher surface toward the end portion of the inserter.

100. A method as set forth in claim 98 wherein said step of separating the inserter and the anchor includes applying force against the second surface area on the anchor and moving the anchor relative to the end portion of the inserter under the influence of the force applied against the second surface area on the anchor.

101. A method as set forth in claim 97 wherein said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue

includes initiating the formation of an opening in a surface area on the body tissue with the end portion of the inserter at a location ahead of the first surface area on the anchor.

102. A method as set forth in claim 97 wherein said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue includes penetrating the body tissue with the end portion of the inserter at a location ahead of the first surface area on the anchor.

103. A method as set forth in claim 97 further including the steps of separating the inserter and the anchor after having performed said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue, tensioning the suture, and changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the inserter while tensioning the inserter.

Please cancel claim 32, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 104 as follows:

104. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an anchor which has a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, providing an inserter having an end portion and a pusher surface which is spaced from the end portion, moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue with the end portion of the inserter extending into the passage in the anchor and the pusher surface on the inserter engaging the second surface area on the anchor, said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into the body tissue

includes transmitting force from the pusher surface on the inserter to the second surface area on the anchor, separating the inserter and the anchor after having performed said step of moving the anchor and inserter together into body tissue, and changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the inserter.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 104:

105. A method as set forth in claim 104 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the inserter includes applying force against an inner side surface of the anchor with the end portion of the inserter.

106. A method as set forth in claim 104 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the inserter includes tensioning the suture while engaging the second surface area on the anchor with the pusher surface.

107. A method as set forth in claim 104 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the anchor includes pivoting the anchor relative to the end portion of the inserter.

Please cancel claim 34, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 108 as follows:

108. An apparatus comprising an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, a suture disposed in engagement with said anchor, a manually engageable handle, and a shaft extending from said

handle through the passage in said anchor, said shaft having a pointed end which extends away from the first surface area on said anchor in a direction away from said handle, said shaft having a pusher surface which is spaced from the pointed end of said shaft by a distance which is the same as a distance between the first and second surface areas on said anchor, said pointed end of said shaft being effective to penetrate body tissue in advance of said anchor and said pusher surface being effective to apply force against the second surface area on said anchor upon insertion of said anchor into body tissue, said pusher surface being fixedly connected with said pointed end of said shaft.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 108:

109. An apparatus as set forth in claim 108 wherein said suture extends through at least a portion of the passage in said anchor.

110. An apparatus as set forth in claim 108 further including a spring which is connected with said shaft, said spring being movable relative to said shaft between a first position in which a portion of said spring engages an inner side surface of the passage in said anchor and a second position, said spring being effective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the first position, said spring being ineffective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the second position.

111. An apparatus as set forth in claim 108 further including a member which is movable relative to said shaft to move said anchor relative to said pointed end of said shaft.

Please cancel claim 36, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 112 as follows:

112. An apparatus comprising an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, a suture disposed in engagement with said anchor and extending through at least a portion of the passage in said anchor, a manually engageable handle, and a shaft extending from said handle through the passage in said anchor, said shaft having a pointed end which extends away from the first surface area on said anchor in a direction away from said handle, said shaft having a pusher surface which is spaced from the pointed end of said shaft by a distance which is the same as a distance between the first and second surface areas on said anchor, said pointed end of said shaft being effective to penetrate body tissue in advance of said anchor and said pusher surface being effective to apply force against the second surface area on said anchor upon insertion of said anchor into body tissue.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 112:

113. An apparatus as set forth in claim 112 wherein said pusher surface is fixedly connected with said pointed end of said shaft.

114. An apparatus as set forth in claim 112 wherein said pusher surface is movable relative to said pointed end of said shaft to move said anchor relative to said pointed end of said shaft.

115. An apparatus as set forth in claim 112 further including a spring which is connected with said shaft, said spring being movable relative to said shaft between a first position in which a portion of said spring engages an inner side surface of the passage in said anchor and a second position, said spring being effective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the first position, said spring being ineffective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the second position.

116. An apparatus as set forth in claim 112 wherein said shaft includes a longitudinally extending inner section and an outer section which at least partially encloses and is movable along said inner section, said inner section having an end portion which is connected with said handle, said pointed end of said shaft being disposed on an end portion of said inner section which is opposite from the end portion of said inner section which is connected with said handle, said pusher surface being disposed on said outer section of said shaft.

117. An apparatus as set forth in claim 112 further including a member which is movable relative to said shaft to move said anchor relative to said pointed end of said shaft.

Please cancel claim 37, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 118 as follows:

118. An apparatus comprising an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, a suture disposed in engagement with said anchor, a manually engageable handle, a shaft extending from said handle through the passage in said anchor, said shaft having a pointed end which extends away from the first surface area on said anchor in a direction away from said handle, said shaft having a pusher surface which is spaced from the pointed end of said shaft by a distance which is the same as a distance between the first and second surface areas on said anchor, said pointed end of said shaft being effective to penetrate body tissue in advance of said anchor and said pusher surface being effective to apply force against the second surface area on said anchor upon insertion of said anchor into body tissue, and a spring which is connected with said shaft, said spring being movable relative to said shaft between a first position in which a portion of said spring engages an inner side surface of the passage in said anchor and a second position, said spring being effective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the first position, said spring being ineffective to retain said anchor against movement relative to said shaft when said spring is in the second position.

Please cancel claim 38, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 119 as follows:

119. An apparatus comprising an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, a suture disposed in engagement with said anchor, a manually engageable handle, and a shaft extending from said handle through the passage in said anchor, said shaft having a pointed end which extends away from the first surface area on said anchor in a direction away from said handle, said shaft having a pusher surface which is spaced from the pointed end of said shaft by a distance which is the same as a distance between the first and second surface areas on said anchor, said pointed end of said shaft being effective to penetrate body tissue in advance of said anchor and said pusher surface being effective to apply force against the second surface area on said anchor upon insertion of said anchor into body tissue, said shaft includes a longitudinally extending inner section and an outer section which at least partially encloses and is movable along said inner section, said inner section having an end portion which is connected with said handle, said pointed end of said shaft being disposed on an end portion of said inner section which is opposite from the end portion of said inner section which is connected with said handle, said pusher surface being disposed on said outer section of said shaft.

Please cancel claim 45, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 120 as follows:

120. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, and a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft has positioning surface means for engaging an inner surface of the passage in the anchor to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means having an axial extent along a longitudinal central axis of said shaft equal to a distance between the first and second surface areas on the anchor.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 120:

121. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 wherein said shaft is integrally formed as one piece, said pusher surface means being disposed on said shaft in a fixed relationship with said end surface means.

122. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 further including a member which extends along and is movable relative to said shaft, said pusher surface means being disposed on said member which is movable along said shaft.

123. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 further including a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

124. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 wherein said end surface means is pointed and has a generally conical configuration, and said pusher surface means has a generally annular configuration, said pointed end surface means and pusher surface means being disposed in a coaxial relationship.

125. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 further including actuator means disposed adjacent to said handle and connected with said pusher surface means for moving said pusher surface means relative to said handle to move the anchor away from said handle and facilitate disengagement of the anchor from said shaft.

126. An apparatus as set forth in claim 120 wherein said pusher surface means is movable relative to said end surface means to move the anchor relative to said shaft to facilitate

disengagement of the anchor from said shaft during insertion of the anchor into body tissue.

127. An apparatus as set forth in claim 126 further including actuator means disposed adjacent to said handle and connected with said pusher surface means, said actuator means being movable relative to said handle to move said pusher surface means relative to said end surface means.

Claim 46, line 1, please change the numeral "45" to the numeral --120--;

lines 4 and 5, please change "outer" (each appearance) to --inner--.

Please cancel claim 47 and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 128 as follows:

128. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, and a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft being integrally formed as one piece, said pusher surface means being

disposed on said shaft in a fixed relationship with said end surface means.

Please cancel claim 48, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 129 as follows:

129. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, and a member which extends along and is movable relative to said shaft, said pusher surface means being disposed on said member which is movable along said shaft.

Please cancel claim 49, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 130 as follows:

130. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, a shaft connected with said handle, said

shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, and a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

Please cancel claim 50, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 131 as follows:

131. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, and a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said end surface means being pointed and having a generally conical configuration, said shaft having pusher surface means for

transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said pusher surface means has a generally annular configuration, said pointed end surface means and pusher surface means being disposed in a coaxial relationship.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 131:

132. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 wherein said shaft has positioning surface means for engaging an inner surface of the passage in the anchor to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means extends at least part way through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means.

133. An apparatus as set forth in claim 132 wherein said shaft includes an inner member which is connected with said handle and an outer member which at least partially encloses said inner member and is movable relative to said inner member, said pusher surface means being disposed on said outer member and being movable with said outer member relative to said inner member, said end surface means being disposed on said inner member, said positioning surface means being disposed on said inner member, said pusher surface means being movable along said positioning surface means upon relative movement between said inner and outer members.

134. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 wherein said shaft is integrally formed as one piece, said pusher surface means being disposed on said shaft in a fixed relationship with said end surface means.

135. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 further including a member which extends along and is movable relative to said shaft, said pusher surface means being disposed on said member which is movable along said shaft.

136. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 further including a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

137. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 further including actuator means disposed adjacent to said handle and connected with said pusher surface means for moving said pusher surface means relative to said handle to move the anchor away from said handle and facilitate disengagement of the anchor from said shaft.

138. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 wherein said pusher surface means is movable relative to said end surface means to move the anchor relative to said shaft to facilitate

disengagement of the anchor from said shaft during insertion of the anchor into body tissue.

139. An apparatus as set forth in claim 131 further including actuator means disposed adjacent to said handle and connected with said pusher surface means, said actuator means being movable relative to said handle to move said pusher surface means relative to said end surface means.

Please cancel claim 51, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 140 as follows:

140. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, and actuator means disposed adjacent to said handle and connected with said pusher surface means for moving said pusher surface means relative to said handle to move the anchor away from said handle and facilitate disengagement of the anchor from said shaft.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 140:

141. An apparatus as set forth in claim 140 wherein said shaft has positioning surface means for engaging an inner surface of the passage in the anchor to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means having an axial extent along a longitudinal central axis of said shaft equal to a distance between the first and second surface areas on the anchor.

142. An apparatus as set forth in claim 141 wherein said shaft includes an inner member which is connected with said handle and an outer member which at least partially encloses said inner member and is movable relative to said inner member, said pusher surface means being disposed on said outer member and being movable with said outer member relative to said inner member, said end surface means being disposed on said inner member, said positioning surface means being disposed on said inner member, said pusher surface means being movable along said positioning surface means upon relative movement between said inner and outer members.

143. An apparatus as set forth in claim 140 further including a member which extends along and is movable relative

to said shaft, said pusher surface means being disposed on said member which is movable along said shaft.

143 144. An apparatus as set forth in claim 140 further including a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

Please cancel claim 52, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 145 as follows:

144 145. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, and a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said pusher surface means being movable relative to said end surface means to move the anchor relative to said shaft to facilitate disengagement

of the anchor from said shaft during insertion of the anchor into body tissue.

Please add the following claims which depend from claim 145:

146. An apparatus as set forth in claim 145 wherein said shaft has positioning surface means for engaging an inner surface of the passage in the anchor to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means, said positioning surface means extends at least part way through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue to position the anchor relative to said pusher surface means and said end surface means.

147. An apparatus as set forth in claim 145 wherein said shaft includes an inner member which is connected with said handle and an outer member which at least partially encloses said inner member and is movable relative to said inner member, said pusher surface means being disposed on said outer member and being movable with said outer member relative to said inner member.

148. An apparatus as set forth in claim 145 further including a member which extends along and is movable relative to said shaft, said pusher surface means being disposed on said member which is movable along said shaft.

149. An apparatus as set forth in claim 145 further including a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which

said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

Claim 53, line 1, please change the numeral "52" to the numeral --145--.

Claims 62 and 63, line 1, please delete the numeral "61" (each appearance) and insert thereat the numeral --150--.

Please cancel claim 64, which was indicated as being allowable, and rewrite the claim in independent form as claim 150 as follows:

150. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of providing an inserter having a shaft with an inner member and an outer member which partially encloses and which is movable relative to the inner member, said inner member having an end portion which extends outward from an end surface on the outer member and extends into the anchor, moving the anchor into body tissue with the inner member extending into the anchor and with the suture disposed in engagement with the anchor, said step of moving the anchor into body tissue includes transmitting force from the end surface on the outer member to a trailing end portion of the anchor, thereafter, separating the anchor and the outer member while the anchor remains in the body tissue, said step of separating the anchor from the outer member

includes effecting relative movement between the inner and outer members while transmitting force between the trailing end portion of the anchor and the end surface on the outer member to decrease the extent to which the end portion of the inner member extends outward from the end surface on the outer member, and changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the body tissue and shaft of the inserter while performing said step of separating the anchor from the outer member, said step of changing the orientation of the anchor relative to the body tissue includes transmitting force between the end portion of the inner member and an inner surface of the anchor while transmitting force through the suture to the anchor.

Please add the following claims:

151. A method of positioning a suture anchor in body tissue, said method comprising the steps of engaging a surface area on the body tissue with a leading end portion of a suture anchor inserter which extends through a suture anchor engaged by a suture, piercing the surface area on the body tissue with the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter while the suture anchor inserter extends through the suture anchor, and moving the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter and the suture anchor together into an opening formed in the body tissue during performance of said step of piercing the body tissue with the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter, said step of moving the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter and suture anchor together into an opening formed in body tissue includes applying force against a trailing end portion of the suture anchor with the suture

anchor inserter to prevent relative movement between the suture anchor inserter and the suture anchor.

152. A method as set forth in claim 151 further including the steps of inserting a suture through an opening in the anchor, and inserting the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter into the opening in the suture anchor with the suture in the opening in the suture anchor, said step of inserting the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter into the opening in the suture anchor includes sliding the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter along a portion of the suture which extends generally parallel to a direction in which the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter is moved into the suture anchor.

153. A method as set forth in claim 151 wherein said step of engaging the surface area on the body tissue with the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter includes engaging the surface area on body tissue with a pointed end of the suture anchor inserter, said step of piercing the surface area on the body tissue includes initiating the formation of an opening in the surface area on the body tissue with the pointed end of the suture anchor inserter.

154. A method as set forth in claim 151 further including the step of withdrawing the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter from the suture anchor after moving the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter and the suture anchor together into the opening formed in the body tissue, said step of withdrawing the leading end portion of the suture anchor

inserter from the suture anchor includes applying force against the trailing end portion of the suture anchor to push the suture anchor toward the leading end of the suture anchor inserter.

155. A method as set forth in claim 151 further including step of changing the orientation of the suture anchor relative to the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter after moving the suture anchor into the body tissue.

156. A method as set forth in claim 155 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the suture anchor relative to the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter includes tensioning the suture.

157. A method as set forth in claim 156 wherein said step of changing the orientation of the suture anchor includes applying force against a trailing end surface of the suture anchor.

158. A method as set forth in claim 151 further including step of disengaging the suture anchor from the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter with the suture anchor in the body tissue, said step of disengaging the suture anchor from the leading end portion of the suture anchor inserter includes applying force against the trailing end portion of the suture anchor with the suture anchor inserter.

159. A method as set forth in claim 158 wherein said step of applying force against the trailing end of the suture anchor includes moving a force transmitting surface disposed on the

suture anchor inserter in a direction toward a leading end of the suture anchor inserter.

160. An apparatus for use in anchoring a suture in body tissue with an anchor having a passage which extends between first and second surface areas on the anchor, said apparatus comprising a handle, and a shaft connected with said handle, said shaft extends outward from said handle and extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having end surface means for piercing body tissue ahead of the first surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said shaft having positioning surface means for engaging an inner surface of the passage in the anchor to position the anchor relative to said shaft and said end surface means, said positioning surface means extends through the passage in the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue to position the anchor relative to said shaft and said end surface means, said shaft having pusher surface means for transmitting force to the second surface area on the anchor to push the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue, said pusher surface means projects outward of said positioning surface means to enable said pusher surface means to engage the second surface area on the anchor during insertion of the anchor into body tissue.

161. An apparatus as set forth in claim 160 wherein said shaft includes an inner member which is connected with said handle and an outer member which at least partially encloses

said inner member and is movable relative to said inner member, said pusher surface means being disposed on said outer member and being movable with said outer member relative to said inner member, said end surface means being disposed on said inner member, said positioning surface means being disposed on said inner member, said pusher surface means being movable along said positioning surface means upon relative movement between said inner and outer members.

162. An apparatus as set forth in claim 160 wherein said shaft is integrally formed as one piece, said pusher surface means being disposed on said shaft in a fixed relationship with said positioning surface means and said end surface means.

163. An apparatus as set forth in claim 160 further including a spring which is resiliently deflectable to move relative to said shaft between an engaged position in which said spring engages the inner surface of the passage in the anchor to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft and a disengaged position in which said spring is ineffective to retain the anchor against movement relative to said shaft.

164. An apparatus as set forth in claim 160 wherein said end surface means is pointed and has a generally conical configuration, said positioning surface means has a generally cylindrical configuration, and said pusher surface means has a generally annular configuration, said end surface means, positioning surface means and pusher surface means being disposed in a coaxial relationship with said pusher surface